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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/555,590	07/21/2000	HENRY WYNDHAM WODEHOUSE	228-009468US	1150
33694	7590	08/12/2004	EXAMINER	
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP 1501 K STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			DASS, HARISH T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3628	

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/555,590

Applicant(s)

WODEHOUSE ET AL.

Examiner

Harish T Dass

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/12/2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,21 and 49-94 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,21 and 49-94 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 2-20, 22-47 are canceled and claim 48 was canceled previously.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1, 49-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

As an initial matter, the United States Constitution under Art. I, §8, cl. 8 gave Congress the power to "[p]romote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries". In carrying out this power, Congress authorized under 35 U.S.C. §101 a grant of a patent to "[w]hoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition or matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof." Therefore, a fundamental premise is that a patent is a statutorily created vehicle for Congress to confer an exclusive right to the inventors for "inventions" that promote the progress of "science and the useful arts". The phrase "technological arts" has been created and used by the courts to offer another view of the term "useful arts". See *In re Musgrave*, 167 USPQ (BNA) 280 (CCPA 1970). Hence, the first test of whether an invention is eligible for a patent is to determine if the invention is within the "technological arts".

Further, despite the express language of §101, several judicially created exceptions have been established to exclude certain subject matter as being patentable

subject matter covered by §101. These exceptions include "laws of nature", "natural phenomena", and "abstract ideas". See *Diamond v. Diehr*, 450, U.S. 175, 185, 209 USPQ (BNA) 1, 7 (1981). However, courts have found that even if an invention incorporates abstract ideas, such as mathematical algorithms, the invention may nevertheless be statutory subject matter if the invention as a whole produces a "useful, concrete and tangible result." See *State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group, Inc.* 149 F.3d 1368, 1973, 47 USPQ2d (BNA) 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

This "two prong" test was evident when the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals (CCPA) decided an appeal from the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI). See *In re Toma*, 197 USPQ (BNA) 852 (CCPA 1978). In *Toma*, the court held that the recited mathematical algorithm did not render the claim as a whole non-statutory using the Freeman-Walter-Abele test as applied to *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 175 USPQ (BNA) 673 (1972). Additionally, the court decided separately on the issue of the "technological arts". The court developed a "technological arts" analysis:

The "technological" or "useful" arts inquiry must focus on whether the claimed subject matter...is statutory, not on whether the product of the claimed subject matter...is statutory, not on whether the prior art which the claimed subject matter purports to replace...is statutory, and not on whether the claimed subject matter is presently perceived to be an improvement over the prior art, e.g., whether it "enhances" the operation of a machine. *In re Toma* at 857.

In *Toma*, the claimed invention was a computer program for translating a source human language (e.g., Russian) into a target human language (e.g., English). The

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court found that the claimed computer implemented process was within the "technological art" because the claimed invention was an operation being performed by a computer within a computer.

The decision in *State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group, Inc.* never addressed this prong of the test. In *State Street Bank & Trust Co.*, the court found that the "mathematical exception" using the Freeman-Walter-Abele test has little, if any, application to determining the presence of statutory subject matter but rather, statutory subject matter should be based on whether the operation produces a "useful, concrete and tangible result". See *State Street Bank & Trust Co.* at 1374. Furthermore, the court found that there was no "business method exception" since the court decisions that purported to create such exceptions were based on novelty or lack of enablement issues and not on statutory grounds. Therefore, the court held that "[w]hether the patent's claims are too broad to be patentable is not to be judged under §101, but rather under §§102, 103 and 112." See *State Street Bank & Trust Co.* at 1377. Both of these analysis goes towards whether the claimed invention is non-statutory because of the presence of an abstract idea. Indeed, *State Street* abolished the Freeman-Walter-Abele test used in *Toma*. However, *State Street* never addressed the second part of the analysis, i.e., the "technological arts" test established in *Toma* because the invention in *State Street* (i.e., a computerized system for determining the year-end income, expense, and capital gain or loss for the portfolio) was already determined to be within the technological arts under the *Toma* test. This dichotomy has been recently acknowledged by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) in affirming a

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§101 rejection finding the claimed invention to be non-statutory. See Ex parte Bowman, 61 USPQ2d (BNA) 1669 (BdPatApp&Int 2001).

In the present application, Claims 1, 49-79 have no connection to the technological arts. None of the steps indicate any connection to a computer or technology. Therefore, the claims are directed towards non-statutory subject matter. To overcome this rejection the Examiner recommends that Applicant amend the claims to better clarify which of the steps are being performed within the technological arts; for example: "computer is used to calculate average ..."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 21, 49-53, 59-87, 89-94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marcous et al (hereinafter Marcous – US 5,650,604).

Re. Claim 1, Marcous discloses a fully automated electronic transfer system [see entire document particularly, Abs; Fig. 1-4; C1 L5 to C3 L37], receiving at the processing means a money transfer request from the input device, and providing within the processing means a first identifier code for the transfer or for at least one of the parties to the transfer, and sending the first identifier code directly or indirectly to the transferor

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if the first identifier code (unique DES-encrypted PIN) is a new code (PIN), the sending operation to the transferor being independent from transferor's the communication with the input device, and outputting money transfer instructions including at least a portion of the first identifier code or information related thereto, and communicating the money transfer instructions to a money handling authority as instructions to effect the money transfer upon verification of the authority of the transferee to receive funds, whereby the authority of the transferee party to receive the funds can be verified upon presentation of the first identifier code by the transferee [Abs; Fig. 3-4; C2 L23; C3 L40 to C4 L30; C4 L65 to C5 L16-L35; C6 L21-L55; C8 L11-L67; C7 L6-L10]. Further Marcous discloses generating pin and journal entry match logic where the input pin is compared to database entry [Figures 3(#350), 4 (#440); C9 L12-L56]. Marcous does not explicitly disclose wherein if a first identifier code is associated with the transferor or transferee in a database of transferors or transferees and associated first identifier codes, the code is retrieved from the database, or if no first identifier code is associated with the transferor or transferee in a database of transferors or transferees and associated first identifier codes, a new first identifier code is allocated in response to receiving the money transfer request and associated with the transferor or transferee. However, these steps are commonly used, where a new pin is provided if the user is not previously registered and the database does not have any record associated with the user, otherwise if a user previously is registered and has a code, it is just verified. For example, when an Internet user logs in (remotely) and does not have password, he/she registers and gets a new code associated with his/her user name. It would have been obvious at the time the

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8-6-04 invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Marcous and include identification verification means to verify the user if he/she is previously registered ^{or} ~~to~~ not and add the user to the database if he/she is a new user to further access to the system.

Claims 2-20 are canceled.

Re. Claim 21, Marcous discloses at least one input unit operable to generate a money transfer request in accordance with information from a transferor, and processing means for communicating with the or each input unit for receiving and processing money transfer requests therefrom, the processing means comprising: means for providing a first identifier code for the transaction or for the one or more parties to the transfer, and means operable to output first information including the first identifier code for communication directly or indirectly to the transferor from independently of the communication operation with the input unit, and means for outputting money transfer instructions including at least a portion of the first identifier code or information related thereto, for communication to a money and handling authority as instructions to effect the money transfer, whereby the authority of a transferee party to receive the funds can be verified at least partly by presentation of the first identifier code by the transferee [see claim 1 above]. Further Marcous discloses generating pin and journal entry match logic where the input pin is compared to database entry [Figures 3(#350), 4 (#440); C6 L33; C9 L12-L56]. Marcous does not explicitly disclose means for allocating a first

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identifier code to a transferor or transferee, and a database of transferors or transferees and associated first identifier codes. However, these steps are commonly used, where a new pin/account number is provided if the user is new and does not have previously registered pin or number and the database does not have any record associated with the user, otherwise the user is provided with new pin/number to be user in future. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Marcous and include allocation of identification code (account number, reference number) to verify the user/account with database if pin/account number is previously registered or not and add the user/assign new account number to the database if does not exist for future use.

Re. Claims 49-52, Marcous discloses generating a second identifier code (security code) associated with the transaction, and outputting the second identifier code to the transferor, wherein the authority of a transferee to receive funds is verified upon presentation of both the first and second identifier codes by the transferee, and wherein the second identifier code is outputted to the transferor at a remote terminal (ATM) [C5 L16-L35; C11 L58-L65].

Re. Claim 53, Marcous discloses wherein the step of generating money transfer instructions includes generating a verification code related to the second identifier code to enable the second identifier code to be verified when presented by the transferee [C5 L16-L35; C11 L58-L65].

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Re. Claims 59-60, Marcous discloses wherein the verification code comprises at least one, but not all, of the characters of the second identifier code, wherein the money transfer instructions include the verification code [C5 L52-L67; C6 L15-L49; C8 L53-L67].

Re. Claim 61, Marcous discloses wherein the money transfer instructions include the first identifier code [see claim 1].

Re. Claims 62-64, Marcous discloses wherein the authority of the transferee to receive funds is verified at least partly upon presentation of the first identifier code and the second identifier code which relate correctly to the verification code received in the money transfer instructions, and wherein the verification code contains some, but not all of the characters of the second identifier code, the method further comprises comparing each known character in the verification code for equivalency with a corresponding character of the second identifier code, and where the second identifier code identifies the transaction [see claim 1; C5 L16 to C6 L49; C8 L53-L67; C11 L58-L65].

Re. Claim 65, Marcous discloses wherein the first identifier code is associated with the transferor (security code) [C5 L25-L36].

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Re. Claim 66, Marcous discloses wherein the processing means comprises a database of transferors and a first identifier code associated with each transferor [Fig. 1; C7 L17-L41; C9 L24-L30].

Re. Claim 67, Marcous discloses wherein the step of allocating a new first identifier code comprises generating a random or pseudo-random code (random number) [C11 L13-L6].

Re. Claim 68, Marcous discloses further comprising receiving, at the money handling authority, money transfer instructions [see claim 1].

Re. Claim 69, Marcous discloses receiving at the money handling authority a first identifier code presented by a potential transferee, and checking whether said first identifier code presented by the potential transferee matches the first identifier code contained in the money transfer instructions [see claim 1 above; C2 L52 to C3 L3].

Re. Claim 70, Marcous discloses wherein the step of generating money transfer instructions includes generating a verification code related to the second identifier code to enable the second identifier code to be verified when presented by the transferee, further comprising checking whether a second identifier code presented by a potential transferee relates correctly to the verification code received in the money transfer instructions [see claim 1; C5 L16-L35; C11 L58-L65].

Re. Claims 71-72, Marcous discloses receiving at the processing means, from the money handling authority, one or more codes that have been presented by a transferee in a money transfer and wherein the processing means compares the transaction identifier code received from the money handling authority with the transaction identifier code it provided for that money transfer [see ref. in claim 1].

Re. Claim 73, Marcous discloses storing each identifier code at the processing means [Abs; C2 L52-L67].

Re. Claim 74, Marcous discloses communicating the money transfer instructions to a money handling authority and receiving, at the money handling authority, the money transfer instructions sent from the processing means [see claim 1 for Ref.].

Re. Claim 75, Marcous discloses wherein the step of generating money transfer instructions includes generating a verification code related to the second identifier code to enable the second identifier code to be verified when presented by the transferee, further comprising receiving information identifying a transaction identifier code presented by a transferee, and verifying whether the transaction code relates correctly to the verification code received from the processing means in the money transfer instructions [C5 L16-L35; C11 L58-L65].

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Re. Claim 76, Marcous discloses wherein the verification code includes information associated with the result of a function based on one or more characters of the second identifier code and testing whether the second identifier code presented by the transferee matches the verification code [C5 L52-L67; C6 L15-L49; C8 L53-L67].

Re. Claim 77, Marcous discloses wherein a first identifier code has previously been allocated for a transaction between the same transferor and transferee, and the first identifier code is not communicated to the transferor [C6 L21-L55; see ref. in claim 1].

Re. Claim 79, Marcous discloses receiving at the processing means data relating to the transferor or transferee; and using the data to provide a first identifier code for the transfer or at least one of the parties to the transfer [see claim 1 above].

Re. Claim 80, Marcous discloses at least one remote input unit (ATM) [Figures 1-2; C3 L60].

Re. Claim 81, Marcous discloses wherein the means for providing the first identifier code comprises means for selectively allocating a new identifier code or reusing a previously allocated identifier code [C6 L25-L55].

Re. Claim 82, Marcous discloses wherein the first identifier code identifies the transferor (security code) [C5 L25-L36; see claim 1].

Re. Claim 83, claim 83 is rejected with same rational as claim 1.

Re. Claim 84, Marcous discloses wherein the means for allocating a new first identifier code comprises means for generating a code based on a random or pseudo-random code (random number) [C11 L13-L6].

Re. Claim 85, Marcous discloses means for generating a second identifier code associated with the transaction and outputting the second identifier code to the transferor [C5 L16-L35; C11 L58-L65].

8-6-04
Re. Claim 8⁶, Marcous discloses wherein the means for generating the money transfer instructions at the processing means comprises means for generating a verification code related to the second identifier code [C5 L16-L35; C11 L58-L65].

Re. Claim 87, Marcous discloses wherein the second identifier code is outputted to the transferor at a remote terminal [C5 L16-L35; C11 L58-L65].

Re. Claim 89, Marcous discloses wherein the means for outputting information to the transferor comprises means for selectively outputting the first identifier code [see claim 1 above; C11 L13-L67].

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Re. Claim 90, Marcous discloses further comprising a terminal at the money handling authority for receiving the money transfer instructions (ATM) [C5 L16-L35; C11 L58-L65].

Re. Claim 91, Marcous discloses in which the terminal at the money handling authority comprises means for communicating to the processing means one or more verification codes presented by a transferor during a money transfer [Abs; Fig. 3-4; C2 L23; C3 L40 to C4 L30; C4 L65 to C5 L16-L35; C6 L21-L55; C8 L11-L67].

8-8-04
Re. Claim 92, Marcous discloses in which the processing means comprises memory for storing each code it provides for a transaction and means for comparing the codes received from a money handling authority with those held in its memory (computer inherits memory) [see claim 1 above; Abs; C2 L52 to C3 L3].

Re. Claim 93, Marcous discloses wherein the money handling authority terminal comprises means for receiving information identifying a first identifier code presented by a transferee and means for verifying whether the first identifier code matches the first identifier code received from the processing means in the money transfer instructions [Abs; Fig. 3-4; C2 L23 to C3 L3; C3 L40 to C4 L30; C4 L65 to C5 L16-L35; C6 L21-L55; C8 L11-L67].

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Re. Claims 78 and 94 Marcous does not explicitly disclose wherein the step of sending the to the transferor comprises producing a sealed envelope containing the first identifier code using a secure postal printer and a secure postal printer. However, these steps are commonly used to provide hard copy of the document (pin number) by sealed mail to avoid unauthorized opening (ex. pin code for bank cards are mailed in sealed envelope with inner side with carbon paper). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Marcous and include sealed envelope to mail code (pin) number by mail in secure manor.

8-16-04
Claims 54-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marcous ^{and further} as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Tedesco et al (hereinafter Tedesco - US 6,282,523).

Re. Claim 54-55, Marcous does not explicitly disclose wherein at least one character of the verification code represents a function of one or more other characters of the second identifier code and includes information indicative of the position in the second identifier code of said character or characters thereof, and wherein the characters in the second identifier code are numeric. However, Tedesco discloses these step [Abs; Figures 1-11C; C1 L5 to C3 L46; C5 L56 to C7 L65] to indicate financial account number. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Marcous and add numerical

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identification, as discloses by Tedesco, to use with account to indicate the financial account number.

Re. Claim 56-58, Marcous or Tedesco does not explicitly disclose wherein the function is a sum function, wherein the verification code comprises one or more blank characters representing missing character or digit positions of the second identifier code, and wherein the function is based on characters in one or more predetermined positions in the second identifier code, and said information represents the position in the second identifier code of the result of the function. However, these steps are commonly known and used in computer coding of data to determine the integrity of transmitted/received data. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Marcous and add a sum function (checksum or CRC) to determine if the data received is correct or not for further processing.

Claim 88 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marcous as applied to claim 21 above, ^{view of} Atalla et al (hereinafter Atalla – US 5,319,710).

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and further in

Re. Claim 88, Marcous does not explicitly discloses wherein the means for generating a verification code related to the second identifier code generates a code from which it is not possible to deduce the second identifier code unambiguously [see entire document

particularly, Abs; figures 1-2C; C1 L15 to C2 L35; C3 L60 to C4 L27] to provide verification code. However, Atalla discloses this step. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the Applicant's invention was made to combine teaching of Marcous and Atalla to provide verification code (ACK/NACK) to reduce additional operational overhead cost to fix errors.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection and Applicant's amendment. Applicant's argument with respect to 35 U.S.C. § 101, the claims (even current amended claims 1, 49-79) have no connection to the technological arts. None of the steps indicate any connection to a computer or technology. Applicant's should note that communication can be person to person, database can be a list/notebook and transfer can be manual.

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 CFR ' 1.111 (c) to consider the references fully when responding to this action.

US 5,826,241 to Stein et al, Oct. 20, 1998 "Computerized system for making payments and authenticating transactions over the internet" discloses a system for enabling payment for information products that can be transferred electronically over a nonsecure network, and more particularly, the present invention relates to a payment system that can be used to enable an Internet user to make a payment to another Internet user for information products of value that can be electronically transferred over the Internet. A programming code on said computer system for accepting a transaction request from a second Internet user to make a charge to a first Internet user.

US 5,949,044 to Walker et al, Sep. 7, 1999 "Method and apparatus for funds and credit line transfers", discloses a financial tender transfer system allows a transferor to transfer credit or make payment to a transferee by debiting the credit card of the transferor and crediting the credit card of the transferee. The financial tender transfer system gives the transferee immediate access to the transferred money and ensures the

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transferor's credit card is valid. Neither party needs to give their credit card number to the other, so security is preserved. Any amount of value up to the full credit line of the transferor can be transferred to the transferee.

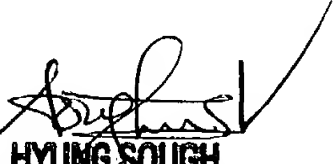
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harish T Dass whose telephone number is 703-305-4694. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:50 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S Sough can be reached on 703-308-0505. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Harish T Dass
Examiner
Art Unit 3628

8/5/04


HYUNG SOUGH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600